

Pop Warner runner has season's worth of stats in one game

Scores five TDs and amasses 300-plus yards rushing

by Greg Eichelberger

Had longtime college and professional football sportscaster Keith Jackson seen 11-year-old Victor Davis Jr.'s Pop Warner performance two weeks ago against Valencia Park, he probably would have overdosed on "Oh, Nellys!"

In fact, most of the small crowd gathered in the concrete seats that encompass the Santana High School field couldn't believe their eyes as this fifth-grade Junior Pee Wee fullback from Cajon Park Elementary School ran roughshod over the green and whites from just outside Spring Valley.

His exploits helped his team gain a hard-earned 30-19 triumph, its first of

the season.

Davis, who lives in Santee and plays for the Santee/Lakeside Cowboys, slashed and rumbled his way for over 300 yards and five touchdowns, two on 90-plus yards from scrimmage, and one 85-yard scamper.

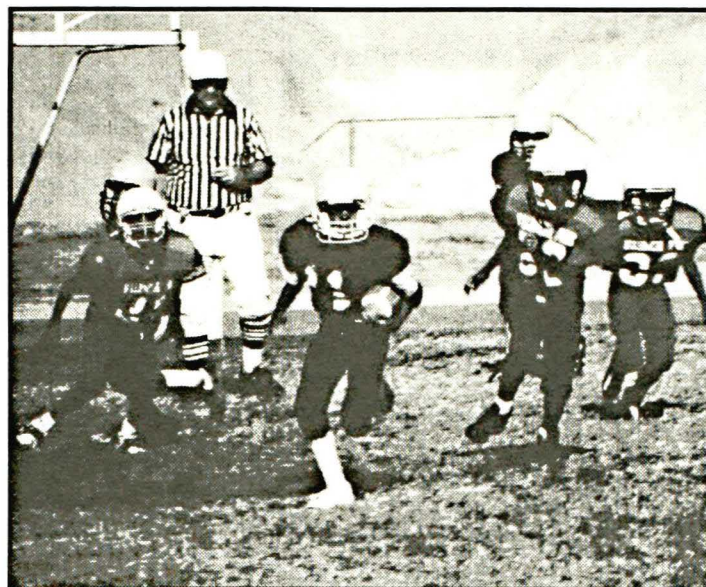
Among these was one of the most dramatic scores in the history of organized football. With only 12 seconds to go in the first half, Cowboys' ball, fourth and 20, from their own six, and trailing 7-6, it looked as if John Trudo's team, which ran unsuccessful plays up the

middle over and over again, was in deep trouble heading for the locker room.

With time for just one more play, quarterback Kyle Rice, 10, handed off to the lanky Davis, who had already scored from 85 yards on the opening series. Davis took the pigskin, cut right, avoided a tackle and headed towards the sanctity of the sideline, outrunning the defense on his way to a heart-stopping 94-yard play from scrimmage with no time remaining in the half.

"That was the most unbelievable play I've ever seen," said head coach Trudo after the first-round playoff contest. He added that the kid was just too quick, and that nobody could touch him.

Nobody could on that



Santee/Lakeside's Victor Davis, Jr. runs past three Valencia Park defenders on his way to a 94-yard TD. His Pop Warner team, the Cowboys, won 30-19. Davis also had runs of 90 yards and 85 yards as he scored all five of the team's touchdowns.

Photo by Greg Eichelberger

working hard.

"He works out on his speed techniques all year 'round," said his father. "He's got great outside speed and he's fast as a gazelle."

The younger Davis' numbers indicate that to be an understatement. After just nine games, Davis Jr. has amassed over 1,000 yards and 15 touchdowns. But his ability to score the points would not have come if it weren't for the stellar efforts of his offensive line.

Young men like Lewis Nicks (center), Brandon Gregg (guard), Ross Parker (left guard), Miles Pivonka (right tack-

le), Matt Finn (left tackle) and Jimmy Oglesby (tight end) opened the holes so that Davis could get to the sidelines in the first place.

Wide receivers Jeff Mosier and Tony Minnifield also set up the screens which stretched the Southeast County defensive unit to the breaking point.

But while all of this was going on, it was the Cowpokes' defense that finally pounded V.P. into submission, as Casey Downey, Eric Trudo, Steve Reed, Matt Pastor and August Williamson, among others, stopped their foes when it mattered.

They played them all out," said defensive coordinator, Steve Pastor of Lakeside. "It was the first game that we won, so it was really special to us."

As its final contest, Santee/Lakeside went into the South Bay and, unfortunately was unable to get its second win of the year, losing 14-0.



Victor Davis, Sr. gives his son (#11) some encouraging advice during the youngster's five-TD game on Nov. 2 at Santana High School.

Photo by Greg Eichelberger

Lakeside's new River Valley charter school given OK by CIF

by Joe Naiman

The California Interscholastic Federation San Diego Section's board of managers unanimously approved the application of River Valley High School to join the CIF.

The item was placed on the consent calendar for the board's Oct. 28 meeting and passed when the entire consent calendar was approved by a voice vote with no opposition.

"We're on our way," said River Valley athletic director Caroline Ninteman.

The Lakeside charter school will be an independent this year, as it had not placed an application to join a specific conference.

Ninteman indicated that the new school, whose plans are to grow to up to 200 students as additional grades are added, may eventually join one of the small-school conferences.



River Valley Athletic Director Caroline Ninteman

CIF commissioner Jan Jessop helped guide Ninteman through the process. "It's going to give them some

credibility that they don't have right now," said Jessop of River Valley's acceptance into the CIF. "I think over the years their program will grow," she added.

Being part of the CIF allows River Valley to play member schools in athletic competition.

Jessop could have provided a temporary waiver to allow River Valley to play fall sports prior to the approval, however student interest did not provide any teams for River Valley during the fall season.

The first sport in which River Valley will compete is girls soccer, in which 16 female students expressed interest. The first game for the Leopards will be at Ramona High School Dec. 3.

The school has also been accepted into the Barons Tournament at Bonita Vista High School (with some preliminary matches played at other sites),

which begins Dec. 6, and will be in the Classified Division for pool play and possible advancement to the single-elimination matches.

So far the Leopards have scheduled four games in addition to the Barons tournament, along with two scrimmages.

"Being a developmental year I think it's good for us to start off as fitting into other people's schedules," said Ninteman.

She noted that student interest will probably cause River Valley to field teams in swimming, tennis and track during the spring.

There is also the possibility of a baseball team either this year or next year.

She also said some interest has been expressed for both boys and girls basketball for the 1998-99 season.

"They ought to be able to hold their own, at least with the small schools, right now," said Jessop.

PG Perspectives

by Phillip Giannangeli

Feelings

Feeling good!

How about you? Yes you.

Some might answer that question with a whining "Not so hot;" others with a robust "Great." Maybe you're somewhere in the middle. You don't feel great; you don't feel lousy. You're just sort of there.

Or, you might just be one of those people who doesn't appreciate an intrusive inquiry such as mine. You might even respond with an in-my-face "What business is it of yours, anyway?" But in the world (the reading world, that is) we're like that. I'd have no place to go with my queries. I'd become a homeless scribe wondering aimlessly from one rejection to another. Come on now, you don't really want that, do you? Thank you.

O.K. Today's great debate is going to swirl around the topic of the way people feel and why they feel that way. That certainly leaves room for some intensive investigation and analysis, doesn't it? I'm going to get right in there and pick apart those feelings we all have and inspect them to within an inch of their lives. Here we go.

There are people, and you've seen them, who seem to be happy most of the time. I'm not sure that's healthy, but it doesn't seem to affect them. They go around happy making others wonder what is it that they know that is not general knowledge for everyone else. I've asked. The general consensus of these happy people is that happy is better than sad. Happy is better than gloomy. Happy is better than grouchy. Sometimes finding myself on the down side of all three of those "happys," I wanted specifics.

"Can't say," was one response. "Things are just good," another told me. One even said that it was "The way I look at things." Not much help there, so I'll just ascribe this happiness outlook to a genetic bounce at birth and go on to look at some other emotions.

On the other side of the street, worry about taxes. Get a clean bill of health, it's time to fret over the unexpected, sudden health calamity. I asked one guy I know about his generally negative assessments and he told me it had to do with reality. Pollyannas don't have a clue to what is really going on, he said. He predicted that one of these days the happy among us are going to wake up and find the roses they usually smell are all dead. That's what he sees. I got out of there quickly before he had a chance to make an observation about me and the reality that I'm surrounded by.

Sad people really are sad. And it is so sad. They have downcast eyes and they seem to see only the bottom half of things. The bottom tiers of life. For them, a sunset means that another day has died. Coming of age puts one closer to his/her final chapter. A rose in bloom will soon be wilted. Man, what a bummer sad people can be.

Given the choice, I'll stick with those who answer my "How're you doing?" with "Great," rather than those who say reality sucks or life is just a long prelude to death. People can be run-down or peppy, thrilled or scared, over wrought or in control. Other emotions, too, can fill-in from time to time. That's life.

There are days, though, when it's easy to get into a blah state. Little things, just as much as big things, can put you there. Just tackling a topic such as how people feel can do that to you. Take you down a bunch of rungs from the high step on the ladder. Put you on the ground; right on your can. But that's my self-imposed charge and I guess I'll just have to live with it.

I'm sorry. I forgot where I was going with this. Ah, never mind. How're you doing?

Lemon Grove Sheriff's Log

Oct. 26-27, 1997

3200 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Petty theft. \$350 value.

Oct. 27, 1997

1800 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Strong-arm robbery. \$91 value.

Oct. 29, 1997

1300 blk. Taft St. Strong-arm robbery. \$25 value.

Oct. 29-30, 1997

1500 blk. Angelus Ave. Vehicle burglary. \$10 value.

Oct. 31, 1997

3200 blk. College Pl. Auto theft. Value unknown.

7000 blk. Broadway. Commercial burglary. Value unknown.

2000 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Residential burglary. \$300 value.

Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 1997

2000 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Vehicle burglary. \$460 value.

Nov. 2, 1997

7200 blk. Broadway. Strong-arm robbery. \$1,320 value

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Betty Jo Tucker

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Lemon Grove Almanac

1994 Population: 25,100
Incorporated: 1977
Area: 3.75 sq. mi.
Median income: \$34,399
1996-97 city budget: \$26.3 million
1996 taxable sales: \$265 million
Mayor: Mary Teresa Sessom
Council: Thomas Clabby
Craig Lake
Dwight Shelley
Jeff Jandura
City Manager: Doug Yount
Planning Director: Linda Niles
City Attorney: Gloria McLean
City Clerk: Christine Teaub
Sheriff's Capt.: Yolanda Collins
Fire Chief: vacant

Congressional district:

52nd - Duncan Hunter

State Senate district:

40th - Steve Peace

State Assembly district:

77th - Steve Baldwin

Supervisory district:

2nd - Dianne Jacob

High School:

Libraries: 1
Post offices: 1
Parks: 4
Recreation centers: 1

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Commentary

by Paul Treske

The money raising game

Our recent World Series was played between two of the three teams with the highest payrolls in all of baseball. It was won by the team that spent the most of all. It was most refreshing then, the other day, to hear our president bluntly state that the political party with the most money always wins.

Like it or not, this would seem to put a realistic cap on the soon-to-close Senate hearings on campaign finance abuses, hearings that proved nothing more than the fact that political parties raise money any way they can.

The Republicans, always ahead in the money game due to the unwavering support of big corporations and individual fat cats, won a smashing victory in the 1994 mid-term congressional elections. Quick to learn, Bill Clinton obviously decided to raise an equal amount of campaign cash for 1996, and cut a lot of corners doing so. He also won re-election handily. Allowing that some of his practices were "somewhat suspect," Clinton added "I am unapologetic about being here."

Bluntly put, it costs too much to win, be it baseball or politics, to always play by the rules. The cost of running a successful political campaign, replete with its usual barrage of TV spots, is immense. There are a few mavericks such as Ross Perot, Steve Forbes or Michael Huffington with enough ready cash to lay out the \$20 - \$30 million or more necessary to undertake a campaign, but even they would need more money than that to run successfully for the presidency.

All of this, of course, leads to the risk of our government being "bought" by private or foreign interests. Actually, this has been a reality of sorts for many years without a spotlight in its direction. With the tobacco moguls being stout and long term Republican "fat cats," it wasn't until the current Democratic administration applied the pressure that any limits were placed on that rich but deadly industry. There are, to be sure, numerous other examples on both sides of the fence.

The Republican-dominated Thompson Committee started its probe of campaign financing for no other reason than the embarrassment of the President. Unable to accomplish this, they were faced with the options of a deeper probe, which would embarrass prominent Republicans as well, or closing shop. They choose the latter.

Campaign finance needs vast reorganization, but this will not happen as long as the efforts are based on partisan politics. Since congress is quite incapable of this, we can expect little future change. The most well-heeled candidate and party wins and that means getting the cash any way they can. That, I suppose, is democracy in action.

Letter to the Editor

I say freedom of religion, not from it

Disunity can be achieved by those who seek to do so by deliberately misinterpreting the Constitution to gain that objective. The events that have transpired in Pontotoc County, Miss. in regards to public school prayer demonstrate the harm that can be done by one person.

She succeeded, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, to render ineffective the approval of 95 percent of the 24,000 people who live in Pontotoc and who wish to see public prayer expressed by the students in the public schools.

This means, that, in this instance the rule of the majority in our democracy does not apply. It does not apply, simply because the Constitution has been misinterpreted. It has been misinterpreted by one federal judge who has privately decided that the First Amendment means freedom from religion, not freedom of religion. The amendment reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

What is literally involved here is the right of the people to assemble and exercise their freedom of speech.

The rights of those who have been denied their freedom of speech are not being protected by the Constitution, as it was intended they should be protected. This is obvious, because the wishes of 95 percent of the citizens of North Pontotoc County are being compelled by one federal judge to avoid giving to God the recognition that is due to Him. As one reader wrote on Dec. 22, 1969, the sixties brought uncontrolled inflation, immoral movies, degrading topless and bottomless dancers, shameful mini-skirts, disrespectful school children and a stupid war. The changes he hoped would occur, never materialized. What next?

BOB WANGLER
Lemon Grove

Meeting Grim Reaper not always grim

Regarding Greg Eichelberger's interesting and informative article, "Where the Dead People Live," [Oct. 30 issue] we do indeed all have a date with the "Grim Reaper," but it doesn't have to be grim. Christ's death on Calvary delivers all who believe in Him from the fear of death.

Satan was defeated at the cross, Greg.

CATHERINE DAMATO
Lakeside

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Santana grad Tammy Echols learning volleyball as she sits

by Joe Naiman

Tammy Echols has accepted her role as a redshirt this year on San Diego State University's women's volleyball team.

"I pretty much knew, but I was just happy that I made the team considering that I don't have very much experience," the walk-on freshman noted.

Echols essentially has two years of true experience in volleyball. The Santana graduate was on the JV team in ninth and tenth grade before making the Sultans varsity for the 11th- and 12th-grade seasons.

In 11th grade, she joined Club Pacific, whose coach was John McDonald, now an assistant coach with the Aztecs.

The 5'10" Echols, who was an outside hitter at Santana, achieved Grossmont League second-team status as a junior and was a first-team league selection as a senior.

She didn't receive any scholarship offers, but McDonald invited Echols to try out with the Aztecs as a walk-on and Echols cited the coaching staff as the reason she chose to attend San Diego State.

Echols, who hopes to be a teacher, practices with the team even though she will not play this year. Originally, she was taking 15 units this semester but had to drop a class because it conflicted with practice. She plans to resume a full schedule during the spring semester.

As a practicing member of the team but an observer during matches, Echols remarked that she has learned proper techniques and about playing competitively.

"I've learned to step up and play to my potential, play harder," she stated. She added that as since she has been here she has learned so much, but that there's still so much about

the game she doesn't know.

"Tammy's developing and working hard in practice every day, getting better all the time. She has a good attitude. She's very well-liked by her teammates," said head coach Mark Warner, said he thinks she will be a late bloomer.

Since Echols will not play in her true freshman year, she will have four years of eligibility after this season. The fact that she is being saved for the 2001 season instead of being used sparingly this year indi-

cates that Warner sees a future for the outside hitter.

Three of the Aztec starters this year are seniors and two others are juniors, so the starter on the Sultans JV and varsity team knew there would be a transition to sitting on the bench. She said that it's an understandable transition and she didn't expect to come out and start.

Echols said that she keeps her head high about it and cheers the team on. "I know someday there will be someone else on



Tammy Echols

the bench in my place," she commented.

East County Community College Sports schedule (Nov. 11 - Nov. 18) as available

Wednesday, 11/12 - WOMEN'S SOCCER: Grossmont at San Diego Mesa. **MEN'S WATER POLO:** Grossmont at Southern Calif. championships

Friday, 11/14 - WOMEN'S SOCCER: Grossmont at Palomar College. **WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL:** Grossmont vs. Southwestern College. **MEN'S and WOMEN'S WATER POLO:** State championships at West Valley.

Saturday, 11/15 - MEN'S and WOMEN'S WATER POLO: State championships at Ohlone College. **FOOTBALL:** Grossmont at Southwestern.

Tuesday, 11/18 - WOMEN'S SOCCER: SoCal Regional Playoffs.

East County High School Sports Schedule Nov. 11 - 18 (varsity and club) (as available)

Tuesday, 11/11 - GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: First rounds CIF playoffs (through 11/15).

Wednesday, 11/12 - CROSS COUNTRY: League finals at Morley Field.

Friday, 11/14 - FOOTBALL: Christian at Mar Vista, Santana at West Hills, Grossmont at El Capitan, Mount Miguel, Granite Hills at *Helix, Valhalla at Monte Vista.

BOYS WATER POLO: CIF playoffs (through 11/22).

Saturday, 11/15 - GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY: Start of CIF playoffs. **BOYS WATER POLO:** CIF playoffs.

Monday, 11/17 - GIRLS TENNIS: Individual CIF finals begin.

Tuesday, 11/18 - GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: CIF semifinals (to 11/22 finals).

*Homecoming game.

Sports Beat with Greg Eichelberger

Last week's excursion to Jack Murphy/QualComm Stadium to see the Chargers pound the hapless Indianapolis Colts marked the first time in a year in which the football team has seen fit to allow us into their magic kingdom. Subsequently, we received credentials to cover Sunday's game against Seattle, which, by the way, featured a Lakeside/Santee Pop Warner pre-game exhibition. Will wonders ever cease?

Now on to local sports, in a way. **Sherice Bartling**, a Grossmont High alum, scored a goal to lead her USD squad to a 3-0 victory over St. Mary's last Friday.

The Pop Warner Football Jamboree was held this past Saturday at Valley Stadium at El Cajon Valley High School.

River Valley High, the newest charter school in the East County, has been granted full CIF membership. This means that the 46-student facility can now participate in all extracurricular sports activities. The school currently fields a girls soccer, swimming, tennis and track team.

Assemblyman **Steve Baldwin** is temporarily putting aside his fight with Democrats to battle the CIF. He is taking on this organization in an effort to see that it gives the sport of roller hockey the same consideration as other lower-tiered activities, such as water polo, golf and field hockey.

"I will be doing everything in my power to see that these kids, who are not your typical jocks, are afforded this status," said the El Cajon politico and longtime participant of the sport.

The Christian Heritage Hawks moved into the semifinals of the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) national women's volleyball championships at Mount Vernon, Ohio last week, defeating teams from Grace, Ind; Lee, Tenn. and Mount Vernon. **Heather Davis** (13 kills) and **Danielle Starley** (10) are the standouts, so far.

Former Grossmont High grad and baseball star **Justin Spencer** has signed a letter of intent to attend Cal State San Bernardino.

Now for last week's "exciting" gridiron action: Ho hum, another win for West Hills in the North League. This time, the Wolf Pack (3-0, 8-1) feasted mightily on the bones of Grossmont (0-3, 2-7) by a score of 36-7. **Lon Sheriff**, who leads San Diego County in passing, did it again with 270 yards and three TDs. He also rushed for 85, scoring two more to singlehandedly crush the (Flat)Hillers.

El Cajon Valley (3-1, 8-1) stayed right on the heels of the Pack with a 21-0 crushing of El Capitan (0-3, 2-7), thus gaining revenge over the team that clobbered them in the first round of last year's CIF playoffs. While it wasn't the prettiest of games, the Braves defense stopped the Vaqueros cold and ruined El Cap's homecoming experience. **Mohammad Muheize**, ECV's talented sophomore running back, was even featured on XTRA Sports 690 after the contest.

Santana (2-1, 3-6) fell even further behind the leaders, as it was demolished by South League-leading Granite Hills (2-1, 6-3), 24-6. The Eagles' **D.J. Anderson** scampered for 184 yards and two touchdowns, while the entire Sultan team could only manage 148.

In a nail biter, Valhalla (1-2, 3-6) upset the Helix Highlanders (1-2, 6-3), 28-27, as **Aaron Sanders** passed for 320 yards and three TDs, and **Jeremy Luce** ran for 120 yards and one score.

Monte Vista (2-1, 3-6) moved past Mount Miguel (2-2, 4-5) into second place in the South, with a 31-14 victory over the fading Matadors. **Jeff Hankla** rushed for 200 yards and one TD and QB **Troy Perdue** scored twice for the Monarchs.

Well, that's about all I have time for this week, but, as usual, you can pass along your relevant information for release in this column by simply calling me at 390-7103, or, take the easy way out and E-mail ikeforum@juno.com. Either way, you'll be glad you did. Until then, have a great sports week.

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